

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN AUGUST 2005

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in August of 68,900 metric tons (t) was about 7% more than that in July and about 11% more than that in August 2004, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Estimated smelter production of 16,200 t was about 45% less than that in July and also about 45% less than that in August 2004. Apparent consumption of 75,300 t was about 7% lower than that in July and 31% lower than that in August 2004.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for North American Special High Grade zinc increased to 62.94 cents per pound in August. The price was 9% (4.98 cents per pound) higher than that in July and 27% (13.5 cents per pound) higher than that in August 2004. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price increased to \$1,298.05 per

metric ton, a 9% increase compared with the July price, and 33% higher than that in August 2004. During August, LME zinc stocks dropped by 21,900 t to 559,625 t.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in August, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was about 3,685 t (4,060 short tons), with an approximate value of \$4.96 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for August 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, September 6, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005			
	January- December	June	July	August	January- August
Production:					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	739,000	67,100	66,900	71,500	501,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	713,000	64,600	64,500	68,900	482,000
Smelter, refined zinc	320,000	23,700 ^e	29,200 ^e	16,200 ^e	189,000 ^e
Consumption:					
Refined zinc, reported	421,000	34,100	31,300	33,700	268,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	485
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	127,000
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	117,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	956
Total ^e	790,000	64,800	62,000	64,500	514,000
Apparent consumption, metal ²	1,160,000	87,900	81,100	75,300	671,000 ³
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer ⁴	XX	6,670	6,390	7,010	XX
Consumer ⁵	XX	55,400	56,700	56,300	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,200	10,200	XX
Total	XX	72,300	73,300	73,600	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	31,500	2,960	2,600	3,680	10,500
Imports for consumption:					
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	52,900	55,800	NA	410,000 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	9,970	10,900	NA	63,300 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	19,300	16,400	NA	97,000 ⁶
Exports:					
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	15	97	NA	661 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	1,150	1,250	NA	8,000 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	12,600	164,000	NA	279,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	3,590	4,110	NA	29,600 ⁶
Price:					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	\$1,047.35	\$1,275.33	\$1,194.08	\$1,298.05	\$1,282.43
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	52.47	61.73	57.96	62.94	62.33

^eEstimated. NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

³Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

⁴Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁵Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁶Includes data through July only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{e, 1}

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ²	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks ²
2004:				
August	6,390	29,300	29,300	6,370
September	6,370	24,100	23,400	7,020
October	7,020	23,800	23,700	7,070
November	7,070	23,500	23,800	6,780
December	6,780	20,200	20,500	6,430
January-December	XX	320,000	321,000	XX
2005:				
January	6,430	24,600	21,200	9,860
February	9,860	25,600	24,500	11,000
March	11,000	22,700	24,000	9,760
April	9,760	23,400	23,800	9,420
May	9,420	23,900	25,800	7,470
June	7,470	23,700	24,500	6,670
July	6,670	29,200	29,200	6,710
August	6,710	16,200	16,000	6,900
January-August	XX	189,000	189,000	XX

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC
ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2004	2005			January- August
	January- December ²	June	July	August ²	
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	477,000	35,700	34,400	32,000	278,000
Other	167,000	12,100	11,000	9,600	90,700
Total	644,000	47,800	45,400	41,600	369,000
Brass and bronze	188,000	14,400	11,000	11,400	104,000
Zinc-base alloy	244,000	18,800	18,000	16,100	145,000
Other uses ³	85,800	6,900	6,600	6,200	53,500
Grand total	1,160,000	87,900	81,100	75,300	671,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE MONTHLY ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North American ¢/lb.	LME ² cash	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2004:			
August	49.44	44.24	975.39
September	49.23	44.22	974.83
October	53.31	48.28	1,064.49
November	54.81	49.68	1,095.18
December	58.53	53.52	1,179.83
January-December	52.47	47.51	1,047.35
2005:			
January	61.54	56.51	1,245.81
February	64.49	60.14	1,325.81
March	66.49	62.47	1,377.33
April	63.03	58.96	1,299.81
May	60.46	56.39	1,243.23
June	61.73	57.85	1,275.33
July	57.96	54.16	1,194.08
August	62.94	58.88	1,298.05
January-August	62.33	58.17	1,282.43

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2004		2005 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	\$5,330	97	\$175	661	\$1,270
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	413,000	164,000	96,000	279,000	143,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	48,300	4,110	4,200	29,600	31,200
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	7,640	13,500	624	1,280	5,310	10,800
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	19,800	1,250	1,720	8,000	13,000
Chloride (gross weight)	1,870	2,200	133	175	1,270	1,540
Sulfate (gross weight)	3,060	1,860	264	161	1,880	1,190
Compounds, other (gross weight)	194	711	106	77	683	557

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for August 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2005 ²					
	2004		July		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	\$888,000	55,800	\$70,400	410,000	\$531,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	98,700	16,400	12,400	97,000	66,500
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	10,800	7,740	383	310	4,430	3,770
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	40,200	2,090	4,240	12,400	23,000
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	89,000	10,900	13,000	63,300	73,400
Chloride (gross weight)	705	863	124	159	452	736
Sulfate (gross weight)	29,100	14,000	2,700	1,340	18,400	9,610
Compounds, other (gross weight)	4,660	4,230	628	556	3,840	3,510

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for August 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2004:			
August	69,700	3,360	66,400
September	66,400	--	66,400
October	66,400	--	66,400
November	66,400	--	66,400
December	66,400	--	66,400
January-December	XX	31,500	XX
2005:			
January	66,400	20	66,300
February	66,300	738	66,400
March	65,600	--	66,400
April	65,600	220	65,400
May	65,400	301	65,100
June	65,100	2,960	62,100
July	62,100	2,600	59,500
August	59,500	3,680	55,800
January-August	XX	10,500	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
		July	Year to date		July	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	27,900	--	8,590	27,900	--	8,590
Ireland	17,700	--	8,700	17,700	--	8,700
Mexico	6,530	4,120	23,900	6,530	4,120	23,900
Peru	178,000	11,800	54,600	178,000	11,800	54,600
Other	877	558	1,150	877	558	1,150
Total	231,000	16,400	97,000	231,000	16,400	97,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	7,940	--	1	27,500	--	16,200
Brazil	26,400	4,630	23,500	26,400	4,630	23,600
Canada	501,000	36,600	292,000	501,000	36,600	292,000
China	35	--	--	16,500	--	876
Japan	--	--	--	690	--	--
Kazakhstan	2,310	--	--	2,310	--	--
Korea, Republic of	8,030	--	5,030	31,900	--	888
Mexico	123,000	14,600	76,300	123,000	14,600	76,300
Namibia	47,900	--	--	47,900	--	--
Peru	25,600	--	126	30,500	--	724
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	204	--	--	3,970	--	225
Total	743,000	55,800	397,000	812,000	55,800	410,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	16,100	855	8,390	16,100	855	8,390
Grand total	990,000	73,100	502,000	1,060,000	73,100	516,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,700	7,290	36,300	49,700	7,290	36,300
China	207	15	76	207	15	76
Italy	13,400	1,160	9,590	13,400	1,160	9,590
Japan	1,060	99	653	1,060	99	653
Mexico	33,200	1,920	13,100	33,200	1,920	13,100
Netherlands	4,700	381	3,090	4,700	381	3,090
Other	796	72	517	796	72	517
Total	103,000	10,900	63,300	103,000	10,900	63,300
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	10,800	383	4,430	10,800	383	4,430
Sheets	2,500	229	1,570	2,500	229	1,570
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	2,090	12,400	24,800	2,090	12,400

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data for August 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.